

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

NEW FICTION ON
MANY THEMES...
SERIOUS VOLUMES

Baroness Orczy's Adventurous Romance—A Sorrowful Tale With a Moral Purpose.

A Civil War Story—Tenement Life, Morgan's Historic Raid, a German Garrison Town.

Some Volumes on Dutch Art, Books on the War, Travel in Many Lands, and Other Subjects.

The sight of Franz Hals's picture and a visit to Holland have led Baroness Orczy to write a romance about "The Laughing Cavalier" (George H. Doran Company) and to connect it very slightly and artificially with her "Scarlet Pimpernel." It is a jaunty, light-hearted tale in which a swash-buckling adventurer engages in a disreputable enterprise to protect a much abused Dutch maiden. He is highly accomplished and eloquent, and with their aid he brings to naught the machinations of a very thorough and dastardly villain. The cleared heroine falls in love with him in spite of his suspicious behavior because he is a masterful youth. The author exhibits her acquaintance with the topography of Haarlem, but keeps it within bounds. So long as Franz Hals inspired her she might have shown her gratitude by treating that lovable painter with greater sympathy. She drops the Spanish beggar maid, too, rather hastily. She has written an amusing and exciting sword and cape tale, all the same, that will give the reader much enjoyment.

It is a pity that Isabel C. Clarke allows her moral purpose to get the better of her artistic sense for she writes with unusual distinction and she has a gift for characterization. The reader will like the dapper military man and the devoted governess in "Fine Clay" (Benziger Brothers, New York) even though they are strangely negligent of the suffering heroine. The unfortunate girl must demonstrate the sacredness of marriage in Catholic eyes; the man who loves her believes throughout in the most ungentlemanly manner. His concealing the fact that he is divorced is bad enough, but his subsequent behavior is worse. We cannot regret his sudden demise, but feel sorry that the girl loves him enough to die in consequence. Both parents are removed in order that their little child may be tutored by a grandfather, who objects to his religion. The author shows very vividly how suffering may be inflicted carelessly on a sensitive child. The story is interesting and will leave no doubts in the reader's mind, regarding Catholic views of divorce.

The civil war serves merely as a background for Randall Parrish's "The Red Mist" (A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago) and the hero is made a Confederate spy simply to get him into trouble. He is kept going from the moment he enters the Virginia mountains; one halfbreath escape follows on another without giving him time to sleep and he is kept dodging Federal soldiers and lawless guerrillas alternately. While rushing from place to place he manages to rescue a charming young woman and to make her love him. We hope he had a chance to rest after the strenuous week he tells about. It is a spirited tale of adventure that will hold the reader's attention.

There are some nice people in "Little Sir Galahad" by Phoebe Gray (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston), an exemplary little girl of the tenements, an impulsive, earnest, earnest boy, an angelic and amazingly precocious little cripple, a kind dayman and others who are better off. These interest the reader for a while, till it is discovered that they are only exhibits of the curse of drink, which the author is fighting against. When the town votes prohibition all is well. The author's unconscious use of current slang terms and her ingenious arguments suggest youth.

The first part of Elizabeth Cheney's "The House of Love" (The Abingdon Press, New York) tells of the ill treatment of an amiable, refined little girl by an abnormally brutal and cruel farmer's wife. Various kind people try to make things easier for her and she tries to believe that all is as it should be. The story then changes into a theatrical melodrama for a short time. The grown up sequel has nothing to do with what precedes; the girl and the author have both become very musical. The child part is fairly interesting.

In "Marmaduke of Tennessee" (A. C. McClurg and Company) Edward Cummings has sought to blend the story of Morgan's raid with a somewhat confused and confusing love story. The author describes several characters elaborately without making much use of them in his tale. His intention is larger than his performance.

It may seem strange that when a young girl has grown up with a young man as Virginia Terhune Van de Water represents in "The Web of Life" (Hearst's International Library Company, New York) she should not have discovered that he is a liar. She is utterly selfish and silly however, and he is an unmitigated scoundrel and coward; our only regret is that she escapes him. The good persons in this *Fireside Companion* romance do not arouse interest.

For war purposes apparently a German story that drove the author out of the army, Lieutenant Hilke's "Life in a Garrison Town" has been translated into English (John Lane Company). It is a sordid and dull tale of petty intrigue and the brutality of officers, like many others that have been published in Germany. In this case the author seems to have related actual facts, only changing the names of the persons concerned.

FIGHTING IN FLANDERS
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The account by an eye-witness of every phase of the great drama in Belgium culminating in the fall of Antwerp. Profusely illustrated with photographs.
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CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

There is a distinct value in having "A History of the Civil War in the United States" (The Neale Company, New York) written now by a Southerner, Dr. Vernon Blythe. The author is able to write temperately and to present a point of view which the writers of such general histories wholly neglect. Unfortunately he has referred to follow the military operations instead of dealing with the broader aspects of the conflict, and with these has made it difficult to distinguish the important movements from those that were of little consequence. He tries to be fair, but sees Confederate victories and drawn battles where Northern writers speak of defeats and in consequence is obliged to assign blame to commanders for things they could not do. His judgments of both Southern and Northern leaders are given separately, but are worthy of notice. It will be interesting to compare this book with the ordinary text books.

If it were not for Flavius Josephus we should know much less than we do about the history of the Jews. He was obliged to submit to Rome and became a renegade to his faith, facts that Norman Bentwich finds hard to forgive in his "Josephus" (The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia). This is an interesting account of the life of the historian and of the contents of his works, which is perfectly fair, even if the author is severe on the faults and shortcomings of Josephus.

A brief sketch of the "Venerable Philippine Duchesne," who introduced the order of the Sacred Heart in the United States, by G. E. M., is issued by the American Press, New York. Apart from its value as a biography it furnishes an interesting picture of Catholic beginnings in St. Louis and the district beyond the Mississippi after they had become United States territory.

The memoir of a distinguished Confederate cavalry leader, "Life of Turner Ashby," by Thomas A. Ashby, M. D., LL. D. (The Neale Company) would have been far more interesting if the author had confined himself to the personal adventures of his relative. The description of the general maneuvers of the Confederate army during the first period of Ashby's life obscures his own achievements. It is Ashby's story that the reader wishes to hear.

BOOKS ON THE WAR.

Those who wish for a clear and intelligible statement of the diplomatic proceedings that immediately preceded the outbreak of the war will find in "The Evidence in the Case," by James M. Beck, LL. D. (G. P. Putnam's Sons) a brilliant summary of what a bewitched lawyer has been able to make out of the official "books" issued by the Belgian, English, Russian and German Governments; the French "Yellow Book" appeared after the book was printed, but only confirms the author's deductions. Mr. Beck assumes the part not of a judge, but of an advocate; he is indignant with the Kaiser and the military party in Germany for bringing on the war and for the violation of the neutrality of Belgium; he believes he has a strong case against them and presents the evidence with perfect fairness. Into the real causes or secrets of diplomacy that are still unrevealed Mr. Beck does not enter. He arranges the facts made known in the official documents from the time of the Sarajevo assassination to the invasion of Belgium, and these on their face he finds very unfavorable to Germany. It is a skillful and vigorous presentation, and Mr. Beck's indignation makes him eloquent and renders his book extremely readable.

The immediate causes, on the other hand, are passed over entirely by the Rev. Dr. Charles Edward Jefferson in "The Causes of the War" (Thomas Y. Crowell Company), which is a vehement sermon against militarism and all its stands for throughout the world and a demonstration that it is contrary to the spirit of Christianity.

It is unkind of John Jay Chapman to collect in "Deutschland unter Allen oder Germany Speaks" (G. P. Putnam's Sons) the contemptuous remarks of many noted German, some of whom ought to know better, about the war and the fatherland. Americans are trained to attach no great importance to utterances made in political campaigns, and should make even greater allowances for outbursts of patriotism, however foolish. The author takes care to express his own opinion of the Germans in strong terms in his long introduction. The Germans should not be judged by their war talk.

TRAVEL.

An extremely entertaining book has been compiled from old English books of travel by William Edward Mead in "The Grand Tour in the Eighteenth Century" (Houghton Mifflin Company).

CONTRASTING TYPES AND SCENES
CHARACTERISTIC OF NEW YORK

HENRY JAMES POIRMAN'S novel "The Captain of His Soul" of which Gertrude Atherton said, "The young provincial's adventures, material and spiritual, in New York have never been better done," presents the variety and contrast of scenes and types which is characteristic of New York. Following are a few examples:

An Eighth Street Table d'Hôte.
"The notable points about Frisquetti's were not so much that the food there was good, cheap and abundant, but that the place was endowed with a certain atmosphere. If they knew you they admitted you with cordiality; if they knew you—not at once. But if you were a stranger, you were made to feel that you were a stranger. You had all the gaily joys of stolen sweets, and in any event you were an old friend forever after."

A Bachelor Girl's Apartment.
"The apartment of the girls was in Washington Square, on the western side. In the brownstone house where they lived were many mansions, compact and warlike, of one, two and three rooms, tenanted chiefly by the young, who toiled hard, paid high and hoped for much. They formed a kind of Latin Quarter in themselves, and all inconveniences were credited to romance."

A Lady and Her "Cordial Closet."
"Mrs. Scripps was a stupendous woman, and must have set some intricate problems to her corset makers. She appeared to overflow everything she wore as a river inundates its banks, and her talk was richly fertilized by the alluvial deposits of the Sunday supplement. She took two cocktails before dinner and incessantly professed her cardinal doctrine of abundant social activity and was new and everything inside it was new, from the gilded chairs to the 'cordial closet,' as she facetiously called it—a wonderful cabinet in imitation mahogany, containing in the minimum of cubic space a maximum number of bottles, to say nothing of the cocktail machinery. The cordial closet adorned the drawing room."

A Girl From Ilkka.
"The only other guest besides Gilbert was a freckled girl with red hair, who was engaged in practicing a certain provocative forward movement of the chin. She was a connection of Scripps from Ilkka, where, it appeared, she had the similar appearance of lots of Cornell fellows. She mentioned the full name, and was eagerly sought to learn whether Gilbert knew any of them. She implied that the group of colleagues was an intimate republic in which all the citizens and some few outside familiars, like herself, knew one another by their Christian names."

A Master Spirit.
"Coleman's philosophy, when you came to look at it, began precisely where Snider's left off. Snider believed in being with the rich, Coleman in being the rich."

A Married Siren.
"She had come to an age when women of her sort begin to flatter and yearn over young men. . . . Every man 'must be made a fuss over' was her unshakable creed. . . . She could create in five minutes an atmosphere of soothing adulation that surrounded a man like a perfume, with every breath more insidious."

THE VACAN
ITS HISTORY—ITS TREASURES

Before buying Christmas gifts ask your bookseller to show you this book. Prices \$10, \$15, \$25.

BOSTON TRANSCRIPT—Nothing comparable has ever appeared. Y. J. TIMES—Unique among the season's illustrated books. N. Y. SUN—The book itself is a work of art. N. Y. EVENING SUN—Rejoices the mind and delights the eye. CHICAGO TRIBUNE—Absorbing interest to every lover of art. AMERICA—The past lives again, the ancient glories of Rome pass before our eyes.

THE LETTERS AND ARTS PUBLISHING CO., 1 W. 34TH ST., NEW YORK.

A book that all who have indulged in trips to Europe will do well to read, for no other reason, to compare the days of coaches and diligences with those of trains and automobiles. It is only with English travelers that the author has to do, for while German, Italian and French travelers wandered about the world for their own pleasure, as they generally do now, the English proceeded in a conventional way from a sense of duty and along fairly beaten tracks, as their English and American descendants do now, when they trust themselves to the care of the tourist agencies. Dr. Mead goes to work systematically; he describes the crossing of the Channel, the roads, the vehicles, the inns, the cost of travel, the tourists themselves; then he takes the grand tour with them through France and Spain, Italy and Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands, transcribing their impressions and comments. There is a great deal of amusing reading in all this. The book is a model of its kind; the author, he annotates lavishly, which is pardonable, but he relegates the notes and references to the back of the volume. The illustrations are from contemporary pictures.

Visitors to the Yosemite will be unable to do without John H. Williams' "Yosemite and Its High Sierras" (John H. Williams, Tacoma, Wash.) and those who have ventured West will have the chance to see the wonders and the beauties of the National Park in its pages. Mr. Williams seems to have made it his purpose to portray the far West in photography. The photographs, over 200 in number, are works of art and the colored pictures are equally good. It is an admirable and artistic pictorial guide.

The coming Panama ceremonies are the occasion for issuing a schoolbook, "Panama and the Canal," by Alfred B. Hall and Clarence L. Chester (Newson and Company, New York) in a new, enlarged edition. It is a compact and satisfactory account of the country and the great enterprise.

From the translation of Paul Clade's "The East I Know" (Yale University Press), by Teresa Frances and William Rose Benet, we might infer that the author had been only slightly impressed by a stay in Coochin China. In his essays he is wholly wrapped up in himself, the sight of an object stirs him to an apostrophe and an outpouring of his emotions. For that he did not need to go to the East. Like Victor Hugo he is excited by the sight of a pig; but his remarks are as applicable to a common French pig as to one of the Orient. We are assured that there is something peculiarly precious and modern in these essays; this must reside wholly in the author's French and is lost in translation. In a few essays he describes vaguely some Eastern sights.

MRS. RINEHART, WIDENING
FIELD, IS LOYAL TO MYSTERY

THOUGH Mary Roberts Rinehart has in her latest novel, "The Street of Seven Stars," abandoned so utterly her familiar field, readers of her mystery tales need not take alarm. She is still a writer of the kind that turned her back upon such work as "The Man in Lower Ten," "The Circular Staircase," "Seven Days," and she answered with an emphatic negative.

"I'll never deceive my public," she said, "and I don't intend to have come to expect a certain type of story from me, and they shall have at least one full sized book a year."

It came as a surprise to learn that Mrs. Rinehart really prefers doing studies of character rather than thrilling accounts of motives. But she said that she had only "chanced" upon the kind of work by which she has become famous. At first she wrote fiction, depending upon character portrayal exclusively. Her first mystery tale, "The Circular Staircase," was written as a joke, as a burlesque upon a set type of fiction. To her amazement the burlesque was taken seriously, and editors and readers clamored for more.

MARIE CORELLI TO-DAY.

Marie Corelli, whose new novel, "Innocent," is attracting attention on both sides of the water as a love story that may rival "Thelma," there was recently paid the compliment of a whole book devoted to her and her work, "Marie Corelli," by T. F. G. Coates and R. S. Warren-Bell.

Many of those interested in the novelist's movements have wondered what attraction drew Miss Marie Corelli to Stratford-on-Avon so greatly as to persuade her to settle there. The cause is a very simple one. She always cherished the memory of Stratford-on-Avon, and hoped she would be able to live there.

The only house available in the town for a permanent home was Mason Croft, a very old place in a sad state of disrepair, its last "restoration" bearing the date of 1745, but as it was all there was to be had, she risked taking it on trial. Gradually improving and restoring it, she has now brought it back to look as it must have been in the eighteenth century, when it was quite an important house, containing a "watch tower," wherein a watchman was set to guard the property and which still stands in the garden, having been transformed into a cozy summer "study" for the novelist. Miss Corelli's love of flowers, which amounts to a passion, shows itself in the mass of blossom which in winter as much as in summer adorns her "winter garden" leading out from the drawing room.

Marie Corelli is a fair linguist, having a thorough knowledge of French and Italian. She can read Balzac and Dante as readily as she can read Walter Scott, and by the way, being particular favorites of hers. Her books are not stored in a stately room that is held sacred to them and them alone, but they are there, there at every where, in drawing room, working den and bedroom. She is not a bookish woman, in the reading sense, but she reads directly and has many widely different friends between covers.

But what of that self of which so much has been heard? It is a personality striking in its simplicity and in its power. Marie Corelli is a woman of women, simple in her tastes, strong in her faith and her aims, full of sympathy for others, living a busy life. At Stratford the novelist leads a very quiet life. Of course she cannot escape

THE BEST
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Harold Bell Wright's
Greatest Novel

THE EYES OF THE WORLD
Illustrations in Colors

The December Bookman's report of the six best selling books in the United States gives "The Eyes of the World" 268 points. The second, or next best, received only 195 points. The sixth best seller received but 67 points. The

Boston Globe says: It is one of the best and certainly one of the cleanest of the books of the year. The Kansas City Star says: Beyond a doubt the author has written a book that will rank with "The Shepherd of the Hills" and "The Winning of Barbara Worth."

\$1.35 At All Bookstores
The Book Supply Company, Chicago

GOOD NEWS

WHAT we all want now is a book that describes the war from the inside—a book by an eye-witness. Till now, none has appeared in this country. This week two such books have been published by Charles Scribner's Sons. Both are profusely illustrated. The price of each is \$1.00 net. One is "With the Allies," by Richard Harding Davis. The other is "Fighting in Flanders," by E. Alexander Powell. Need anything more be said?

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By Lilli Lehmann

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Personal memoirs of one who is rightly called the greatest dramatic singer of her time, and is, as well, a brilliant woman and a scholar of unusual gifts. It is a story of rare and well-known unprecedented achievement, so honestly and simply told that the very simplest of people can understand it. The author, herself a hero-worshiper, has no idea of the vast army of singers here and abroad for whom she is an example and an inspiration.

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G. P. Putnam's Sons New York 24 W. 45th St.

small creature, with a mass of waving golden hair, pale gold, such as the children of the East, with large, dark, expressive eyes, almost child-like at first glance, but with immense reserves of energy, that is Marie Corelli. Her chief charm is perhaps the liquid softness of her voice. She began life as a singer and musician, and as one hears her speak it is easy to understand that she had not been a force in literature she might have been a controlling influence in the world of song. In the hall her harp still stands, but more often her fingers stray over the notes of a piano. A visitor is soon quite at ease. Formality is dispensed with. The keynote in Miss Corelli's house is sincerity. She is a brilliant conversationalist, but a good listener too. She talks freely and without conscious effort, and one's faith in her is instantly inspired. What does she talk about? Just enough about herself to make her auditor wish for more; yet, with a concession that is all grace, she is eager to hear all that her visitor has to say on the subjects nearest his own heart. Particularly does she like the theme to be the old loved authors and whatever one has to tell of Dickens, or Thackeray, or Tennyson, and even if one

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By Abbe Ernest Dimnet

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